

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 15-30 and 33 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as being directed to a non-elected invention.

1. (Currently amended) An information service providing method for providing an information service to a plurality of information terminals through a communication line, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving a request from said information terminal through a first communication line; and

sending a reply to said request to said information terminal through at least one of ~~not only~~ said first communication line and ~~but also~~ a second communication line, which ~~is~~ different from said first communication line, depending on ~~a~~ ~~the~~ content of said request.

2. (Currently amended) The information service providing method according to claim 1, wherein said first communication line includes an ~~is the~~ Internet line.

3. (Currently amended) The information service providing method according to claim 1, wherein said second communication line includes ~~[[is]]~~ a communication line capable of performing temporary communication ~~occupying communication temporarily~~.

4. (Currently amended) The information service providing method according to claim 1, wherein said second communication line includes ~~[[is]]~~ a switched subscriber line for governing telephone communications.

5. (Original) An information service providing system for providing an information service through a communication line, comprising:

an information terminal for sending a request signal for requesting desired information through a first communication line; and

an information providing apparatus for sending said desired information to said information terminal through a second communication line in response to said request signal received through said first communication line.

6. (Currently amended) The information service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said first communication line includes an ~~is the~~ Internet line.

7. (Currently amended) The information service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said second communication line includes ~~[[is]]~~ a communication line capable of performing temporary communication ~~occupying communication temporarily~~.

8. (Currently amended) The information service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said second communication line includes ~~[[is]]~~ a switched subscriber line for governing telephone communications.

9. (Original) An information service providing system for providing an information service through a communication line, comprising:

a first information terminal for sending a request signal for requesting desired information through a first communication line;

a second information terminal; and

an information providing apparatus for sending said desired information to said second information terminal through a second communication line in response to said request signal received through said first communication line.

10. (Original) The information service providing system according to claim 9, wherein:

said second information terminal includes a sending part for sending said desired information received through said first communication line to said first information terminal through a short-range radio interface; and

said first information terminal includes a receiving part for receiving said desired information sent from said second information terminal.

11. (Currently amended) The information service providing system according to claim 9, wherein said first communication line includes an is the Internet line.

12. (Currently amended) The information service providing system according to claim 9, wherein said second communication line includes [[is]] a communication line capable of performing temporary communication occupying communication temporarily.

13. (Currently amended) The information service providing system according to claim 9, wherein said second communication line includes [[is]] a switched subscriber line for governing telephone communications.

14. (Currently amended) The information service providing system according to claim 10, wherein said second information terminal includes [[is]] a mobile communication terminal.

15-30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently amended) An information terminal for acquiring desired information through a communication line,

wherein the information terminal is capable of sending a request signal for requesting said desired information to an information providing apparatus through a first communication line, and receiving said desired information sent from said information providing apparatus through a second communication line, which is different from said first communication line.

32. (Currently amended) An information providing apparatus for providing desired information through a communication line,

wherein the information providing apparatus, upon receiving a request signal for requesting said desired signal through a first communication line, is capable of sending said desired information through a second communication line, which is different from said first communication line.

33. (Canceled).

34. (New) The information service providing method according to claim 1, wherein said content of said request includes whether said request is directed to information which is to be at least one of secured from and prevented from being monitored by others.

35. (New) The information service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said request signal comprises a request for information which is to be at least one of secured from and prevented from being monitored by others.

36. (New) The information service providing system according to claim 9, wherein said request signal comprises a request for information which is to be at least one of secured from and prevented from being monitored by others.

37. (New) The information terminal according to claim 31, wherein said request signal comprises a request for information which is to be at least one of secured from and prevented from being monitored by others.

38. (New) The information providing apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said request signal comprises a request for information which is to be at least one of secured from and prevented from being monitored by others.

39. (New) An information service providing method comprising:
receiving a request from at least one information terminal of a plurality of information terminals through a first communication line; and

sending a reply to said request to said at least one information terminal through at least one of said first communication line and a second communication line, which is different from said first communication line, based on whether said request is directed to information which is to be at least one of secured from and prevented from being monitored by others.

40. (New) An information service providing method comprising:

receiving a request from at least one information terminal of a plurality of information terminals through a first communication line; and
sending a reply to said request to said at least one information terminal through at least one of said first communication line and a second communication line, which is different from said first communication line,

wherein said reply is sent through said second communication line when said request is directed to information which is to be at least one of secured from and prevented from being monitored by others.

41. (New) The information service providing method according to claim 40, wherein said reply is sent through said second communication line only when said request is directed to information which is to be at least one of secured from and prevented from being monitored by others.